

**MAKERERE**



**UNIVERSITY**

**REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR**

**PROF. JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 65<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION  
CEREMONY OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**THURSDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY, 2015**

**FREEDOM SQUARE**

- **The Chancellor – Prof George Mondo Kagonyera**
- **Honourable Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Retired Major Jessica Alupo**
- **Honourable Ministers present**
- **Honourable Members of Parliament present**
- **Your Lordships the Judges**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps**
- **Religious Leaders**
- **Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies**
- **Representatives of Development Partners**
- **The Leadership of Kampala Capital City Authority**
- **Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council**
- **Chairperson and Members of Appointments Board**
- **Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Business School Council**
- **The Principal, Members of Management and Staff Makerere University Business School**
- **My colleagues, Vice Chancellors, Rectors and Principals of Institutions of Higher Learning**
- **Former Vice Chancellors**
- **Members of Management, Senate and the entire Makerere University Community**
- **Parents and Guardians**
- **Graduands**
- **The Media**
- **All invited guests in your various distinguished capacities**

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You are most welcome to the second day of the 65<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University. I thank you for gracing this occasion with your presence.

**In a special way, I welcome the Honourable Minister of Education and Sports. Hon. Rtd. Major Jessica Alupo. We thank you and your Ministry for the support towards Makerere University.**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, today's graduation session is dedicated to graduands from the Makerere University Business School (MUBS) and the College of Education and External Studies. Allow me, therefore to extend a warm welcome to Members of Council, Members of the Academic Board, Management and Staff from Makerere University Business School (MUBS). You are most welcome.

**Before I continue with my remarks Mr. Chancellor Sir, allow me to invite the Principal of Makerere University Business School to greet the congregation.**

Mr. Chancellor Sir, a graduation ceremony is an opportunity for graduands, parents, guardians and members of Staff to come together and celebrate the valuable contribution each and every one of us has made to this day.

I congratulate all Graduands upon successfully completing their studies. Your hard work has paid off and has led you to being awarded degrees and diplomas of Makerere University. Without the support and encouragement of your parents, guardians and friends, you would not have been here today. I would therefore like to congratulate the parents and guardians who have supported you throughout the entire period of your studies. Thank you and may you be abundantly rewarded through the achievements of your children.

I would like to thank the Staff who have played a key role in preparing our graduands for this day.

In a special way, I congratulate all members of staff graduating today upon this academic achievement from which Makerere University will greatly benefit. To the members of staff whose children, spouses and relatives are graduating today, congratulations!

May I also express my sincere appreciation to the Staff of Makerere University and Makerere University Business School for their dedicated service to this great institution and the entire nation. You have played a big role in the transformation of our economy. Indeed we are very grateful.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I pay special tribute to the Government of Uganda and all our Development Partners, who continue to support the Higher Institutions of Learning in the area of staff training and development, as well as research.

I am happy to note that Makerere University has continued to have an edge in postgraduate training in the region. Throughout this graduation ceremony, **one thousand two hundred and fifteen students** will attain Masters Degrees while 67 will receive their PhDs. Makerere University is proud of these statistics especially as we continue on our path to being a research-led university. Makerere University is determined to differentiate herself from other institutions by advancing basic and applied research in Humanities, Science and Technology.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, during the 65<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony lasting three days, a **total of thirteen thousand seven hundred and seventy six (13,776)** students will graduate. Of these **49.5%** are female and **50.5% are male**. We are also witnessing a record-high attainment of **67 Doctorates**. Of these **67% are male** and **33% are female**. **Mr. Chancellor Sir, the best student in the Science disciplines and best overall student is Mr. Adriko Rodney who obtained a First Class Degree in the Bachelor of Information Technology with a CGPA of 4.88. He will be graduating tomorrow Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015.**

I am happy to announce that the overall best performing student in the Humanities during the 65<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony is from MUBS, as was the case for the past two Graduation Ceremonies. Mr. Sewante Luke obtained a First Class Bachelors Honours degree in Leadership and Governance with a CGPA of 4.81. We congratulate you together with your parents and guardians. We also congratulate the Management and Staff of MUBS upon this achievement.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, today we present to you candidates from Makerere University Business School and the College of Education and External Studies, for the award of diplomas, degrees and PhDs. There have been several new developments in the College of Education and External Studies. Allow me to just mention a few.

**The College of Education and External Studies** is playing a key role in the review of the proposed lower secondary curriculum known as the Curriculum Assessment and Examination (CURASSE). By working with the Ministry of Education and Sports and the National Curriculum Development Centre, the College has provided expert advice in the areas of content, approach and assessment of the curriculum to make it more relevant in producing graduates who are able to participate in the technology-driven global economy.

The College is actively engaged in the retooling programme for all in-service teachers and the new teacher education curriculum for pre-service to ensure that teachers are trained in appropriate pedagogy for skills and competence development.

As the pioneer of Open, Distance and E- Learning at Makerere University, the college continues to distinguish herself by collaborating with various partners to strengthen the capacity of our staff in content development for Open, Distance and e-Learning courses

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I also wish to inform you that this college, through its Centres of Lifelong Learning and Teaching and Learning Support, has continued to strengthen its research, community engagement and strategic partnerships with Government and development partners. Notable projects include; the NORAD funded project on **Ecology and Management of the Sudd Wetland in South Sudan** and the **BASE project**, aimed at building capacity in the oil and gas industry through distance learning. Additionally, the **Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Higher Education Leadership and Management in sub-Saharan Africa project** will create sustainable knowledge bases in form of graduate programmes.

We congratulate Associate Professor George Openjuru upon his appointment as Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs at Gulu University. We wish him a successful term of office.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, Makerere University Business School has had several achievements since the last graduation as earlier shared by the Deputy Principal. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairperson and Members of Council, the Chairperson and Members of the Academic Board, the Principal, Management and Staff of Makerere University Business School (MUBS) for a job well done.

I thank the Principal together with his management team for his cordial working relationship with management of Makerere University. We have a common goal of providing high quality education for the development of our nation. A good working relationship is therefore paramount and I am happy to note that we continue to enjoy it.

Having said that Mr. Chancellor Sir, I wish to re-echo my remarks during the previous two graduation ceremonies regarding our collaboration. As I said then, there has been limited collaboration between Makerere University Business School and the School of Business in the College of Business and Management Sciences at Makerere University. I believe that our two institutions can benefit greatly from mutual collaboration in teaching, research and supervision.

MUBS being the leading business school in the region, it can surely assist the School of Business at Makerere University in a number of ways. Similarly, the School of Business at Makerere University has certain expertise that can be useful to MUBS. Indeed, our two institutions can reinforce each other. I therefore urge all of us to initiate stronger and visible links.

Mr. Chancellor Sir as I conclude, I once again thank all of you for being with us today. In a special way, I thank the Uganda Police Force and the Chief Security Officer for ensuring that we have peaceful and uninterrupted proceedings.

In particular I would like to thank the Inspector General of Police Gen. Kale Kayihura for the role he has played in making sure that there is peace in Makerere University.

To our graduands, once again congratulations. Today is your day to remember, to celebrate and to cherish. You have earned it and we wish you a wonderful and joyful celebration.

However, I call upon all of you to gainfully apply the knowledge you have acquired. Remember this knowledge is not yours alone. It is for the benefit of the entire society. Use it to overcome the challenges within your community and the nation at large. May God bless you all.

It is now my honour and privilege to invite our dear Chancellor, Prof. George Mondo Kagonyera to address the congregation as ***We build for the future.***